

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: August 23, 2002

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on August 16, 2002

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
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TO: Thomas V. Skinner
Regional Administrator

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Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and other significant developments:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Removal Initiated (Union Iron and Metal Site), Metropolitan East St. Louis Lead Residential Cleanup Sites, East St. Louis, Illinois

On July 29, 2002, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Response Branch began removal of elevated levels of lead contaminated soil at the Union Iron and Metal site in East St. Louis, Illinois (currently, the last of seven sites where lead removals resulted from efforts by the Gateway Team). Under the direction of On-Scene Coordinators Mike Harris and Kevin Turner, removal activities are continuing at the seven East St. Louis area lead sites: United Iron and Metal, Deranek & Son, Inter-Coastal Paint, Western Forge Works, Eagle Picher Residential, Voelker Plating, and Multiple Deposition Sites.

The Gateway Team funded the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to do soil lead screening in East St. Louis. IDPH targeted former industrial sites in its sampling efforts. The Gateway Team, through the direction of Noemi Emeric, convened an ad hoc group targeting lead as a contaminant of concern for East St. Louis. This group, which included St. Mary's Hospital, collected blood lead data from children in East St. Louis. The Removal Branch became involved based on the IDPH sample results showing high soil lead data in old industrial areas bordering residential areas (as high as 30,000 parts per million) and the St. Mary's study showing children with elevated blood lead levels. A vast area appears to contain elevated levels of lead and a large number of residents, while most of the businesses apparently responsible for the lead problem have long since left

the area and are no longer in existence. Potential source areas are virtually all abandoned and left unattended and uncontrolled.

Contacts: Mike Harris (312-886-0760)
Kevin Turner (618-997-0115)
Valerie Mullins (312-353-5578)
Noemi Emeric (312-886-0995)

Cleanup Work Plan Approved, Potentially Responsible Party Removal, The Getzen Site, Elkhorn, Wisconsin

On August 8, 2002, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Charlie Gebien approved the cleanup work plan for the Getzen site in Elkhorn, Wisconsin. Site cleanup work is to begin immediately and completion of the project is planned for mid-December 2002. Major aspects of the cleanup work will include soil sampling, removal, and disposal of soils, outside of the main manufacturing building, inside the main manufacturing building and sump areas in and around the main manufacturing building. Estimated costs for the cleanup are \$650,000.

On May 3, 2002, U.S. EPA issued an Administrative Order to potentially responsible parties (PRPs) to cleanup the Getzen musical manufacturing facility. The PRPs then hired the contractor who developed the cleanup plan and who will conduct the cleanup work at the site.

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OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Outreach Academy Graduation Ceremony, Chicago, Illinois

On July 18, 2002, a graduation ceremony for Outreach Academy participants who successfully met all of the requirements was held in the Lake Michigan Room at U.S. EPA Region 5 in Chicago. The Office of Public Affairs (OPA) sponsors the Outreach Academy program annually. The participants are recommended by their immediate supervisor and selected by their Branch Chief and Division/Office Director. The Outreach Academy is open to all Divisions and Offices in Region 5.

Successful graduates of the program have to complete two outreach projects, classroom assignments, a series of surveys, a final evaluation, a discussion of the Outreach Academy and attend 7 of 9 training classes. Pictures of the 2002 graduating class and its Co-Chairs (Marla Littlefield, OPA, and Patti Krause, OPA), along with Elissa Speizman, Director, OPA, were taken and light refreshments were served at the ceremony.

The Superfund Division (SFD) had seven graduates in 2002. The 2002 graduating class representing the SFD are as follows: Karen Mason-Smith, Remedial Project Manager (RPM); Gwendolyn Massenburg RPM; Terese Van Donsel, RPM; Partap Lall, On-Scene Coordinator; Giang-Van Nguyen, RPM; Brenda Jones, Ecologist; and, David Brauner, Ecologist. The SFD managers that attended the ceremony were Bill Munro, Director, SFD, and Don Bruce, Chief, Remedial Response Section #2.

Abstracts of some 2002 outreach projects are on the Intranet at <http://www.r5intra.epa.gov/opa/outreach/2002outreachprojects.htm>.

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